Dr. Belle S. Wheelan  
President  
Commission on Colleges  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

Thank you for your letter of April 14, 2009, which responded to six letters notifying the Commission on Colleges about changes at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. We are pleased to learn about your approval of our proposed Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree program and the acceptance of the other changes.

Your letter included two questions. The first concerned the changes implemented in distance education programs for Nursing and Health Sciences. You asked about the effective date for the closing of two off-campus sites. The sites in Victoria and Laredo closed at the end of the summer 2004 term.

The second question concerned our proposal to change the approved Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction to the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. (At the time of notification, the proposal was pending approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board [THECB].) You asked about the effective date for the change. The date of the change to a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction is May 1, 2009.

We also wish to report on another development regarding this doctoral program. During its review, the THECB staff asked an external consultant to evaluate the proposal. The consultant was Dr. Elizabeth Graue, Director of Graduate Training at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research and Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Graue analyzed the strengths of the program and also suggested minor changes in the proposal. One suggestion was to call the emphasis area “literacy studies” instead of “reading.” Another was to allow for a more general course of study called “curriculum studies” within the existing curriculum. The university modified the proposal as suggested. On April 30, 2009, the THECB approved the change to a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. The concentrations in literacy studies and curriculum studies will replace the reading emphasis. There are no additional costs to the institution for the revised program.

The letters to which you responded were dated February 16, 2009, February 19, 2009, and March 3, 2009. We would like to inquire about the status of a letter dated February 3, 2009, which provided late notification about the addition of the B.S. degree with a major in Biomedical Sciences in summer 2004, the related creation of a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Clinical Laboratory Science, and the subsequent phasing out of the B.S. degree in Clinical Laboratory Science.

Finally, we would like to provide updated information on three topics addressed in our earlier letters:
1. On March 25, 2009, the THECB approved our cooperative Ph.D. program with Texas Women’s University (the degree-granting institution) in Nursing Science.

2. The Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree program was approved by the THECB on April 30, 2009.

3. For the 2009-2010 graduate catalog, the Mental Health Counseling emphasis within the Master of Science in Counseling program has been renamed the Clinical Mental Health Counseling emphasis. This title, approved during the campus review process for catalog changes, is consistent with the new standards of the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Flavius C. Killebrew
President/CEO

/cc

cc: Dr. Anantha Babbili
    Dr. David Billeaux
    Dr. Jack Cassidy
    Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton
    Dr. Arthur Hernandez
    Dr. Robert Nelsen
    Ms. Christine Shupala